Thomas Joseph O'Brien

LATE A REPRESENTATIVE FROM ILLINOIS

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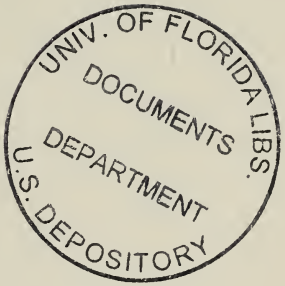

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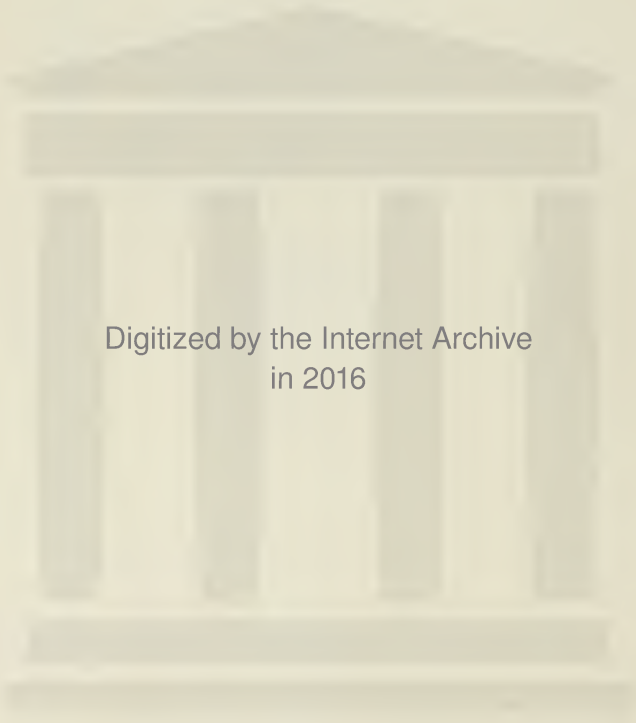
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Memorial Services

HELD IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES, TOGETHER WITH REMARKS PRESENTED IN EULOGY OF

Thomas Joseph O'Brien

LATE A REPRESENTATIVE FROM ILLINOIS

Eighty-eighth Congress
Second Session

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Biography

THOMAS JOSEPH O'BRIEN was born in Chicago, Ill., April 30, 1878; attended the grade and high schools and took advance courses in business law and accounting; engaged as a public accountant in 1918; member of the State house of representatives 1907–1910 and 1929–1932; served as State bank examiner 1913–1924; elected as a Democrat to the Seventy-third, Seventy-fourth, and Seventy-fifth Congresses (March 4, 1933–January 3, 1939); did not seek renomination in 1938, having become a candidate for sheriff of Cook County, Ill.; sheriff of Cook County, Ill., 1939–1942; elected to the Seventy-eighth and to the ten succeeding Congresses and served from January 3, 1943, until his death in the naval hospital at Bethesda, Md., April 14, 1964; interment in the Queen of Heaven Cemetery, Hillside, Ill.

Proceedings
in the
House of Representatives

Proceedings in the House

TUESDAY, *April 14, 1964.*

Mr. LIBONATI. Mr. Speaker, I regret to inform the Members that the dean of the Illinois delegation, THOMAS O'BRIEN, died at 1:45 this afternoon.

As we trace his political career in public life we can only state that he was an individual wholly dedicated to the purposes he had in life. He was loyal to the dignity of his party and in his solid friendship for all men who were in political leadership and assertive of party policy in the Congress. He was beloved by all of his fellow legislators.

He served 8 years in the Illinois Assembly and 28 years in the Congress of the United States.

His political potency in accomplishing favorable results were such that he inspired young Members, and he was a political asset to those he served. THOMAS J. O'BRIEN was a man in every sense of the word. When he was most provoked he was silent. He respected every individual who served his country, and those in this House especially.

He served as sheriff of Cook County for 4 years, from 1938 to 1942, and is the only man in Chicago who was ever elected out of one of two districts when both districts sought his services in this body.

He was educated in Chicago schools, in business law, and in accounting. He served for 6 years as a bank examiner under three auditors of the State of Illinois.

Anyone who met TOM O'BRIEN knew in his heart that he had met a dedicated and real American who loved fellow human beings because of his interest in their problems.

Mr. Speaker, this is not in the nature of a eulogy. It is purely a presentment of the life and character of a great man, TOM O'BRIEN, who had the respect of the House. We extend a heartfelt condolence to his darling wife, Nettie, in her bereavement.

Ceremonies will be held on Thursday, April 23.

Mr. Speaker, I offer a resolution.

The Clerk read as follows:

Resolved, That the House has heard with profound sorrow of the death of the Honorable THOMAS J. O'BRIEN, a Representative from the State of Illinois.

Resolved, That a committee of fifty Members of the House, with such Members of the Senate as may be joined, be appointed to attend the funeral.

Resolved, That the Sergeant at Arms of the House be authorized and directed to take such steps as may be necessary for carrying out the provisions of these resolutions and that the necessary expenses in connection therewith be paid out of the contingent fund of the House.

Resolved, That the Clerk communicate these resolutions to the Senate and transmit a copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

The resolution (H. Res. 684) was agreed to.

The SPEAKER. The Chair appoints as members of the funeral committee the following Members on the part of the House: Mr. Dawson, Mr. Arends, Mr. Keogh, Mr. Kirwan, Mr. Mills, Mr. King of California, Mr. Madden, Mr. Rooney of New York, Mr. Byrnes of Wisconsin, Mr. Price, Mr. Boggs, Mr. Karsten, Mr. Thompson of Texas, Mr. Herlong, Mr. Rhodes of Pennsylvania, Mr. Zablocki, Mr. Betts, Mr. Curtis, Mr. Kluczynski, Mr. Springer, Mr. Watts, Mr. O'Hara of Illinois, Mr. Broyhill of Virginia, Mr. Derounian, Mr. Knox, Mr. Utt, Mr. Alger, Mr. Bass, Mr. Gray, Mrs. Griffiths, Mr. Jennings, Mr. Collier, Mr. Michel, Mr. Ullman, Mr. Libonati, Mr. Burke, Mr. Derwinski, Mr. Hoffman, Mr. Murphy of Illinois, Mr. Pucinski, Mr. Rostenkowski, Mr. Shipley, Mr. Schneebeli, Mr. Anderson, Mr. Findley, Mr. Finnegan, Mr. McClory, Mr. McLoskey, Mrs. Reid of Illinois, and Mr. Rumsfeld.

The Clerk will report the remainder of the resolution.

The Clerk read as follows:

Resolved, That as a further mark of respect, the House do now adjourn.

The resolution was agreed to.

Accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 42 minutes p.m.) the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, April 15, 1964, at 12 o'clock noon.

WEDNESDAY, *April 15, 1964.*

The Chaplain, Rev. Bernard Braskamp, D.D., offered the following prayer:

Psalm 98: 9: *With righteousness shall He judge the world, and the people with equity.*

O Thou God of all majesty and mercy, may our minds and hearts daily be animated and aglow with the kind and beneficent spirit of our blessed Lord.

Help us to understand that the many problems which now engage the thought and time of our chosen Representatives, assembled in the council Chamber, are not primarily political, nor even social, but fundamentally moral and spiritual.

Grant that, as we think in terms of one humanity, we may believe that the difficult questions which confront our beloved country are the turning of a new page of history and the opening of a brighter chapter of progress in the spiritual life of mankind.

We thank Thee for the character and service of our colleague whose spirit has entered into the eternal blessedness of Thy nearer presence. Grant unto the members of his family the consolation of Thy grace.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

A message from the Senate, by Mr. Arrington, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed a resolution, as follows:

S. RES. 309

Resolved, That the Senate has heard with profound sorrow the announcement of the death of Honorable THOMAS J. O'BRIEN, late a Representative from the State of Illinois.

Resolved, That a committee of two Senators be appointed by the Presiding Officer to join the committee appointed on the part of

the House of Representatives to attend the funeral of the deceased Representative.

Resolved, That the Secretary communicate these resolutions to the House of Representatives and transmit an enrolled copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

Resolved, That as a further mark of respect to the memory of the deceased, the Senate do now take a recess until 10 o'clock a.m. tomorrow.

The message also announced that the Presiding Officer, pursuant to Senate Resolution 309, had appointed Mr. Douglas and Mr. Dirksen to join the committee appointed on the part of the House of Representatives to attend the funeral of the Honorable THOMAS J. O'BRIEN, late a Representative from the State of Illinois.

Memorial Addresses

Remarks by Representative Libonati

Of Illinois

Mr. Speaker, in evaluating the political career of Congressman THOMAS O'BRIEN, who for 28 years served as a Member of this body from Illinois, one must realize the fact that he dedicated his political career to serving his constituency, many of whom were steeped in poverty and naturally looked to labor and welfare organizations for their social progress and economic protection. The splendid racial traits of his paternal Irish ancestry dominated his character, and he held to the hard, stern rules of loyalty to party and organization. His whole life was devoted to the development of its political strength and labor's unity of purpose. Nothing would upset him more, as dean of the Illinois Democratic delegation, if even one member disagreed with the party's stand on a question, and voted with the opposition.

He believed that loyalty to party and leadership was the only course for him, and he followed it. This was the one characteristic that remained predominant throughout his whole career; he could no more abandon it than to repudiate the tenets of the Roman Catholic Church. He resented anyone who unsuspectingly inquired of him about his attitude on a certain piece of legislation favored by the Democratic administration. In anger he would reply "mind your own business—who said I was against it? Am I not an administration man—get out."

Although physically wasting away from the middle of last term, hospitalized for long periods and returning for a short time in this term, his legislative duties were always uppermost in his mind—not even thoughts of regaining his health

were as important to him. Although physically hardly able to walk without support this spring on his return to the House, his clear and alert mind flashed through the haze of a prolonged illness, and in appearance he seemed vigorous and healthy.

Upon his return to the hospital, and even though complications were progressive, he showed the acuteness of his mental capacity, but as he said in his jocular, homely way, "I'm living on borrowed time—old age is getting me." This is so true he succumbed just to anno domini.

Mr. O'BRIEN was liked and respected by his colleagues on both sides throughout the years of his service.

He was strong and wise in party delegation councils and was practical in his support of administration policy.

Mr. O'BRIEN was forceful in his appeal for action. He had the ability to handle and direct men.

Throughout his long career, Mr. O'BRIEN could be relied upon to do his duty, to serve his constituency, and to support labor.

He always did what he thought was best, and whatever task he undertook, he did well, and whatever he accomplished for others was appreciated. He was rewarded with a strong feeling of loyalty on the part of the recipient.

He died happy in the thought that from humble beginnings he had left the memory of a loved personality whose serve added to the dignity and power of his State and his Nation's prestige for public good.

Mr. O'BRIEN was a natural leader and had something warm and appealing about him that attracted Congressmen to him, and he instilled in each a sense of confidence—this acceptance made him a leader. Mr. O'BRIEN never violated his word or promise to anybody. He was sensitive sometimes to newspaper criticism, but never displayed any anger or temper toward his press critics, although in several rare instances he was outspoken and used forceful language in outbursts within the political group.

He pursued a quiet and steady life of activity, accomplishing many things with valuable results to his city and State. Unfortunately, it was only in recent years that his works have come to public notice. But he did not expect or desire publicity—he was satisfied with the love and admiration of his fellow citizens and colleagues.

Once you crossed Mr. O'BRIEN, you learned to regret it—he disliked a double dealer. He rarely condemned another, but he never forgave a deep hurt either. He was a rugged individual who was firm, spoke and thought straight through to you, and the sincerity of his words were from his heart. No political trickery—his answer was "Yes" or "No." The great leader of Illinois was a real man in every sense of the word—and his word was law to the leaders of his party at home. Mayor Richard Daley and deceased Democratic leader, Patrick Nash, were his closest friends.

Mr. O'BRIEN might not be so well known to the Nation, but he certainly held the esteem and admiration of the business, professional, and political leaders of his State interested in national affairs.

By his silence, you would know him—he rarely, if ever, presented himself before his colleagues for a speech, for he was a man of action and wasted no time in voicing empty phrases, or indulging in a show bordering on sensationalism. He was no exhibitionist.

He lived simply with his darling wife, Nettie. They were an ideal couple. His brother-in-law, John, and his secretary, Mr. Miley, were ever at his side. My wife, Jeannette, my son Michael, and I extend our heartfelt condolences to Mrs. O'Brien and her brother John. Now that he is gone the Illinois delegation and the Congress do not seem the same.

The people of the Nation, the State of Illinois, and city of of Chicago have lost a distinguished citizen and leader whose whole life was dedicated to the highest service to his fellow man.

I have written these few stanzas as a tribute to his memory:

The sky's cloak many secrets hold
Nor heaven's mansions God unfolds
From earth's mortal eyes.
E'en to souls that cloud its lofty spires.

Its purples, grays, and deep blues
Or slender slivers of tinted golden light
Fading with darkening shadows seal the moon at night
Bringing evening sadness as fleeting stars blend with darkest hues.

Beyond this firmament his soul has passed today
With God's blessing for which many pray
Seeking its sacred way to kingdom come,
To reap the glory for a life of service done.

Remarks by Representative Halleck

Of Indiana

Mr. Speaker, we have lost a fine colleague in the death of THOMAS J. O'BRIEN, whom I always admired.

He was a good man in every sense of the word, whose friends and supporters would, I am sure, have elected him to any public office he might have sought within their jurisdiction.

Certainly his long public career, both here in the Congress and back in his home area, bespeaks the affection and confidence of his constituents.

One of TOM O'BRIEN's great qualities was his capacity for loyalty to the cause he served. Let it be said of him that he kept the faith through the years to the party he represented, to his district, and to his State.

While it was not my privilege to work with him on the great Committee on Ways and Means, I can appreciate that the ability he brought to his assignment as an accountant enabled him to make significant contributions to the work of that committee.

Mr. Speaker, a long and useful career as a public servant has ended in the passing of TOM O'BRIEN, but I trust those dear ones he leaves behind will be consoled in their loss by the knowledge that he gave so much of himself to help make this world a better place for all of us.

Remarks by Representative Arends

Of Illinois

Mr. Speaker, after a prolonged illness, God in His wisdom has taken our beloved friend, TOM O'BRIEN, to his great reward. In our selfishness, not wanting to be denied his presence with us, we mourn his passing. We should not mourn for him. He would tell us, in the noble, kindly, courageous language of one of Dickens' characters: "It is a far, far better rest that I go to, than I have ever known."

Those of us who attended the funeral services held for him in his home city of Chicago were deeply moved by the love and respect with which he was held by the people of Illinois. It may be said that he devoted his entire life to the public service of Illinois. He was a State assemblyman and a State bank examiner. He also served as sheriff of Cook County.

That he served in the Congress for 28 years bespeaks the quality of man and the high quality of his service to the people he represented in the great city of Chicago. TOM O'BRIEN and I differed on many legislative questions that came before us. He and I were political opponents. But our political differences and our differences on legislative issues never at any time or in any way disrupted our long continuing friendship. He respected my views, and I respected his.

With the passing of TOM O'BRIEN I have lost a good friend, and we have lost an able legislator. We of Illinois have lost a distinguished public servant. He will be greatly missed. He will be long remembered.

To his fine wife and family I extend my sincere sympathy.

Remarks by Representative Price

Of Illinois

Mr. Speaker, members of the Illinois delegation in the Congress, both Democrats and Republicans, join in this memorial this afternoon to THOMAS J. O'BRIEN with a deep sense of sadness and a sincerity that bespeak their love and admiration of a great man.

The sense of affection we Illinois Members had for TOM O'BRIEN is shared by the entire membership of the House of Representatives. In my own 20 years of service in this body I have never known a man who was more universally respected.

TOM O'BRIEN'S judgment and political sagacity was outstanding and he had foresight in the outcome of political matters which was not short of amazing. His perceptiveness and ability to sense situations gave him many successes in his legislative career. Ever mindful of the welfare of the State and Nation he served, he was vigorous and wise in support of progressive causes.

He was the source of much wisdom and helpful direction to hundreds of younger Members of this body through his 28 years of service here. Only 19 Members of the present membership of the House have served longer than the dean of the Illinois delegation.

He was a kindly man. He was a considerate man. He was a good man. These qualities were evidenced in all his actions. These qualities were quickly recognized by all who knew him. In public life, in private life, they were readily discernible.

I suppose that of his many fine qualities the one which won for him the everlasting respect of all his colleagues in the House of Representatives was that of the reliance which

could be put upon his word. It could be truthfully said of THOMAS J. O'BRIEN:

His words are bonds:
His oaths are oracles.

His fellow Members on both sides of the aisle, from every section of this great country, will miss him sorely and his place in our hearts will leave an aching void.

To his devoted wife, Nettie, brave and most gracious of ladies, Mrs. Price and I extend our most sincere sympathy.

Remarks by Representative Gary

Of Virginia

Mr. Speaker, I wish to join my colleagues in tribute to one of the finest couples that it has ever been my privilege to know. Tom O'Brien was a great legislator. Few Members of this House ever dared to challenge him on a legislative question and those who did always found themselves outvoted. He was a Christian gentleman who entertained a loyal devotion to his friends, his city, his party, his country, and his God.

It was my privilege to serve with Tom O'Brien on the Appropriations Committee, of which he was a member before he was assigned to Ways and Means. Although he seldom made a speech, he was always effective in the subcommittee, the full committee, and on the floor of the House.

Tom was blessed with a long and happy married life. His wife was a charming companion. They were an ideal couple whose tender devotion for one another was beautiful to behold as they journeyed down the pathway of life together.

With the passing of Tom O'Brien, the city of Chicago has lost an able Representative, the Democratic Party has lost a valient warrior, the United States of America has lost a patriotic and dedicated public servant and we have lost a colleague whose friendship I cherished. I extend my heartfelt sympathy to Mrs. O'Brien and with her and the host of his friends in the House mourn his loss to the Nation.

Remarks by Representative McCormack

Of Massachusetts

Mr. Speaker, this Chamber and, indeed, the whole country, which has suffered such severe bereavements in the year of tragedy, was struck one of the severest blows of all with the news yesterday of the passing of our respected and beloved colleague, THOMAS J. O'BRIEN, of Chicago. I sometimes wonder when an American, a legislator, a friend, like TOM O'BRIEN, passes from the scene, whether the hardest hit are those, like the Members of this House, who have been so close to him and worked with him so collaboratively, or whether the greater sufferer is the field of Federal legislation, or the people of his district, or his State, or our country. For me the fact that I shall never again counsel with TOM O'BRIEN, that I shall never again consult him on politics in Chicago, in Illinois, and in the country, and that this friend, this counselor, this guide is gone from us forever, is as hard to adjust myself to as any tragedy of the last decade.

If I speak of the death of Representative O'BRIEN from this personal sense of loss I know that in this House I shall be understood for I was not alone in my respect and affection for him. For me this great and good man represented the integrity, the wisdom, the understanding of his fellow man, that is so indispensable to genuine success in the politics of our country. The influence of TOM O'BRIEN on the great events of his time, events which have shaped the history of the United States and the world in the 28 years that he served with us, was effective without being spectacular. In a thousand ways this dean of the Democrats of Illinois was the persuasive voice of sound judgment and good sense that played an important role in final decisions for the good of our country and the free world. For the great leaders of this House and for me in hours of great crisis, to have TOM O'BRIEN sit in when decisions were to be made, to have

him at one's elbow, was a source of comfort and of reassurance, and a bulwark to the massive responsibilities that all of us frequently have to shoulder.

I remember TOM O'BRIEN well when he was first elected to the 73d Congress and recognized at once an ally and a friend, a legislator who would serve his country indefatigably and diligently and who would always hold close his sense of responsibility to the people of his district. For this loyalty to one's own, this recognition of regard for those who elect one to office, this feeling of mutuality, is the heart of American politics, because loyalty is not divisible and those who are loyal to their district cannot then be disloyal to their country. A man who is honest is honest not merely in some of his dealings but in all of them becase that is or is not one's nature. And TOM O'BRIEN was the soul of political, intellectual, and personal honesty.

It happened, as we all know, that his specialized background in the field of banking and finance, and his intimate and technical knowledge of accounting, made him invaluable in what is perhaps the greatest function this House is called upon to perform, the fiduciary function. For TOM O'BRIEN understood banking and finance on the prodigious levels of the needs, the revenues, the problems of taxation, social security, and the expenditures of the Government of the United States. He knew it in terms of the crises that afflicted our country and the free world, and he knew it in terms of the critical and pressing situations of war. Again and again, it seemed to me, he risked his physical well-being, indeed, life itself, in his devotion to the needs of his position on the Committee on Ways and Means. Here his service, as we all know, was senior and outstanding, and his counsel translated itself into the vital areas of the history of the United States in his time. His skill and his talent were outstanding on the Joint Committee on Internal Revenue and Taxation. Many of us felt a personal sense of impending doom when Representative O'BRIEN, back in 1962, suffered a heart attack when he was a guest of President Kennedy and the President's aid, Lawrence F. O'Brien,

aboard the Presidential yacht *Sequoia*. This was a desperate hour for us all. And all of us felt an immense relief when he overcame this attack and seemed well on the path to recovery. There were periods of course, of diminished activity, but this great and seasoned legislator never lost his zest for life nor his enthusiasm for politics and his devotion to the public interest.

It is impossible under the agony of this moment to make an adequate assessment of the meaning of the life and service of a great American like TOM O'BRIEN. For more than half a century I have known no other interest than the interest of politics and the safety, the peace, and the prosperity of my country, and for me the greatest contributors to that safety, that peace, that prosperity are men of the depth and stature of TOM O'BRIEN. He was one of those statesmen, knowledgeable and informed in the problems of the budget and of appropriations, who could from that specialized vantage point see the total needs of the United States and gage its goals and its future accordingly. Yet with all his lofty understanding of the great vistas of modern statesmanship, he appreciated the problems of the grassroots and the home folks, and he knew, as only the choice few knew, how to make democracy work for all the people. I pray to Almighty God that He will send us in this Chamber another American who can with equal dedication and competence fill the place of this most distinguished citizen of Illinois, this statesman, this remarkable servant to the interests of the people.

Further, the beautiful life that he and Mrs. O'Brien led was an inspiration for all others to follow. Mrs. McCormack and I would meet them, while Congress was in session, at Mass each Sunday while TOM and Mrs. O'Brien and Mrs. McCormack and I were attending the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass at St. Patrick's Church. Their life was a beautiful one, traveling the journey of life together, sweethearts always, sweethearts before marriage and sweethearts during the blessed married life that they had. It was a good example for all others to follow.

From a personal angle, I have a great feeling of consolation that will always remain in my mind, because I visited our late friend, Tom O'Brien, at the hospital 2 days before he died, the Sunday before he died. I think I was the last one of his colleagues that served with him that visited him at the hospital prior to his death. At that time I realized the end was coming. While he was not unconscious, he was not conscious; he was not aware of my presence in the hospital room. Mrs. O'Brien and her brother were there. It will always be a source of great consolation to me that I visited him 2 days prior to his death.

If we could all take the journey into the great beyond with the confidence in our minds that Tom O'Brien had of reaching that place in eternity that holds for all who lead a good life, we could approach the end of the journey of life with great happiness and satisfaction.

I extend to Mrs. O'Brien in her bereavement the profound sympathy of both Mrs. McCormack and myself.

Remarks by Representative O'Hara

Of Illinois

Mr. Speaker, TOM O'BRIEN was my friend for over half a century. We walked together, as it were, from youth into the gathering years of age. It is hard to accept the truth of his physical passing. TOM O'BRIEN had always seemed so indestructible. Even on the last day of his life when the report reached us that he was sinking, I refused to believe that the danger in TOM O'BRIEN's case could be real. To the last I honestly believed he would beat off the ailment that had stricken him and that he would return to execute with faithfulness and vigor his duties in the House, on the Ways and Means Committee, and as our beloved dean in the 89th Congress.

TOM O'BRIEN had many virtues, but I would say the strongest was that of loyalty. Mr. Speaker, indeed a man may possess all the other virtues, and if he is without the virtue of loyalty he is a pauper in character. That was TOM O'BRIEN's credo. TOM O'BRIEN lived a life of loyalty in its finest expression—loyalty to his fine and noble wife, his life's companion, and to his family; loyalty to his State, his city, his Nation, his church, and his party; loyalty to his friends and the causes of labor and of humanity that he championed.

Mr. Speaker, TOM O'BRIEN never broke his word—never. He was well into the eighties and he never broke his word and he never forgave anyone who he believed had broken his word to him.

Mr. Speaker, TOM O'BRIEN will be missed in this House. He will be missed in Chicago. I remember him first as a young man in his late twenties. He had run as an independent for the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the State of Illinois and had beaten Benjamin J. Mitchell, the regular Democratic incumbent. Those were rough days. There were conventions—no primary elections.

Young O'Brien's victory was a real upset. He went down to Springfield and served for two terms. Then he called Ben Mitchell in—and this should be remembered—showing the tender heart that beat in Tom O'Brien's bosom—Tom called him in and said, "Now, Ben, you always liked it in Springfield and it sort of broke your heart when I beat you." Ben said, "Yes, Tom, it did." And Tom O'Brien said, "Well, Ben, I am going to quit and give you back your job." And he did. I know of no better story from true life to convey the sweet tenderness of Tom O'Brien. Ben Mitchell had his ups and downs after that, but Tom O'Brien was in his corner all the way.

Ten years later he returned for three more terms in the State legislature in Illinois. But meanwhile something had happened that was unusual in Illinois. In 1912 we elected a Democratic State administration—the first that we had had in 20 years, and this thanks to Teddy Roosevelt and his Bull Moose splitting of the Republican Party. A young man who had been a telegraph operator, a handsome, popular, and able young fellow, Jim Brady, was elected State auditor. The first thing Jim Brady did was to call in Tom O'Brien and make Tom O'Brien a bank examiner.

Tom O'Brien performed that function of bank examiner so well that he was retained by the two succeeding Republican State treasurers after the end of the administration of Brady.

I am thinking back a good many years now. Tom O'Brien and I were close friends for over half a century. We had many things in common—peculiar little things. I never eat butter, don't like gravy, keep away from dressings, and have been that way since childhood. Tom O'Brien never ate butter, didn't like the sight of it, and with him, too, gravy and dressings were off the reservation.

That is a small thing but when one does not conform even to the usual habits of appetite I suppose the sense of affinity grows with another similar nonconformist, and it tends to draw you closer and closer together.

Mr. Speaker, my heart is broken. But, Mr. Speaker, it will mend—as I think of TOM O'BRIEN and meditate on the years of our warm and close friendship as we traveled together from youth to the advancing years of age and I deny to myself that he is gone and I sit in my chair in this Chamber, hearing the sound in my ears of the living voice of the immortal TOM O'BRIEN.

Mr. Speaker, to the sweetheart of TOM O'BRIEN's youth and every day and every moment of his adult life, to Mrs. O'Brien, goes my deepest sympathy. Nor can I forget in this time of deep grief John Kaufer and Jim Miley who worked with TOM O'BRIEN all these rich years in the service of his constituents.

Remarks by Representative Murphy

Of Illinois

Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise to join my colleagues in paying tribute to the memory of my dear friend, THOMAS J. O'BRIEN.

Mr. O'BRIEN represented the Sixth Congressional District of Illinois since 1932 with the exception of the years 1938 to 1942 when he served as sheriff of Cook County, Ill. He had served in the Illinois Legislature 50 years ago.

During his tenure as a Member of the House of Representatives, he first served as a member of the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, then chaired by the eminent Sam Rayburn. When he returned to Congress in 1942 he became a member of the important Committee on Ways and Means, wherein he was the third ranking majority member and a conferee.

During his service on the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce he became a very close friend of the chairman, Mr. Rayburn, and this friendship was retained until Mr. Rayburn's death. Mr. O'BRIEN was one of the motivating forces that made Sam Rayburn majority leader in 1936, which was the first step toward Mr. Rayburn's elevation to Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives.

Mr. O'BRIEN was a serious as well as an able and efficient public servant, and during his long service in the House made an imprint that will not soon be forgotten.

I have had the privilege of knowing Mr. O'BRIEN intimately for over a score of years and found him a loyal and true friend. Mrs. Murphy's family have been neighbors of Mr. and Mrs. O'Brien for many years in the Austin community of the city of Chicago.

Mrs. Murphy joins me in extending our sincerest sympathy to his devoted wife, Nettie, and to Mr. O'BRIEN'S personal family. May God's eternal light shine upon him and may his soul rest in peace.

Remarks by Representative Albert

Of Oklahoma

Mr. Speaker, I share the sorrow of my beloved Speaker and our beloved colleagues from the great State of Illinois and the city of Chicago over the loss of one of the illustrious men of this body.

As I listened to the eloquent words of the distinguished and venerable gentleman from Chicago, Mr. O'Hara, who has just taken his seat, in describing his lifelong association with TOM O'BRIEN, I realized how inadequate would be my effort to pay tribute to the inimitable TOM O'BRIEN.

The passing of our late beloved colleague, TOM O'BRIEN, has left a void in this House that can never be filled. After the Lord made TOM O'BRIEN, He broke the mold. Like Napoleon, he had no model, and no successor.

In many respects TOM O'BRIEN was the most extraordinary man I have ever known. Born in the 19th century, he carried the traditions and wisdom of another era and applied them with great effect to the fulfillment of the 20th century human and political aims. While TOM seldom took the well of the House, this Chamber has never known a more successful legislator. He was a man calm and composed, yet with a determination as hard as nails. When he concentrated his efforts on a legislative problem, its solution became a certainty. He balanced these qualities with boundless fidelity in his allegiances. He belonged to the old school which held that loyalty is a two-way street. In a legislative battle he was an ally who inspired confidence in his comrades. When TOM O'BRIEN went with you, he went all the way. His word was better than a bond.

One of the hallmarks of TOM O'BRIEN'S personality and character was his legendary loyalty to the Democratic Party. He gave his party unfaltering support. It was perhaps one of the great loves of his life. Yet with all his partisan

commitment, he was a kindly man who loved his friends without regard to party affiliation. He respected the views of every human being regardless of whether he agreed with them or not. His long years as a public servant were an unbroken record of achievement on behalf of his fellow man. The leader of the great Chicago delegation, he wielded such influence as has been held by few men who have ever served in this House.

Many of us sought Mr. O'Brien's help and counsel over the years. He had our confidence, our trust, and our deep affection. As for me, he was my friend and close adviser from the moment I first came to the House. I treasured his friendship as I respected his wisdom and admired his rare talents.

Tom O'Brien's great city of Chicago, throughout many decades an important factor in the political life of this Nation, has lost an irreplaceable son. This House has lost one of its truly distinguished Members. The Nation has lost a great and respected legislator.

I join the gentleman from Illinois in his expression of sorrow, and I extend my deepest sympathy to Mrs. O'Brien, the devoted and wonderful helpmate of our late beloved colleague.

Remarks by Representative Madden

Of Indiana

Mr. Speaker, I wish to join the Illinois delegation in paying tribute to a great American.

The passing of our colleague, Congressman THOMAS J. O'BRIEN, not only grieved his numerous friends but it also signified the end of an era. Very few Americans enjoy the privilege of actively serving their city, county, State, and Nation over a period of almost 60 years. TOM O'BRIEN served in one of the city courts of Chicago before he was elected to the Illinois State Legislature in 1905. He was elected to four terms in the Illinois State Legislature beginning in 1905. He was afterward a State bank examiner and held various offices in the city of Chicago and Cook County up until he was first elected to the 74th Congress in the early thirties.

Congressman O'BRIEN was a leader of the Democratic Party not only in Chicago and Cook County but also had great influence in party circles throughout the State of Illinois. He learned his politics and was a student of government at an early age and possessed the extraordinary commonsense and personality to win friends and keep them. He possessed that rare quality of loyalty to his political party, his leaders, and his associates, both in and out of Government. When TOM O'BRIEN made a promise or gave his word, it did not need to be in writing and his reputation was such that his promise was as good as a Government bond. He possessed that keen sense of judgment and understanding of human nature that he shunned contacts and relationships with people who, in his judgment, were not reliable and of the highest character.

Many successful Government officials, business and professional men in Illinois owe their start to the help and recommendations of TOM O'BRIEN. Governors, mayors, and both local and national leaders consulted with him on matters of policy and politics for over a half a century.

Congressman O'BRIEN was a clean living man, enjoyed the best of health up until he was stricken with a heart condition a year ago last August at the age of 84. The older Members of Congress especially will certainly note his absence from the floor of this House. Thousands of longtime friends in Illinois will miss him and all who were fortunate enough to enjoy his acquaintance have lost a true friend.

I wish to extend to Mrs. O'Brien and to his family my deepest sympathy in their bereavement.

Remarks by Representative Byrnes

Of Wisconsin

Mr. Speaker, I want to join the Illinois delegation and the rest of my colleagues in paying tribute to TOM O'BRIEN and in expressing my deepest sympathy at his passing.

Politically, Mr. O'BRIEN and I were, of course, on the opposite sides of the aisle. TOM O'BRIEN was a partisan, and he was proud of it. But, in spite of our political differences, I always considered him my friend, and I believe he always considered me his; because he never let his political partisanship interfere with his friendship and his love of his fellow man. He tried to be of help under all circumstances.

Mr. Speaker, TOM O'BRIEN was a great gentleman. He was a great American. I shall miss him.

Mrs. Byrnes joins me in expressing our deepest sympathy to his wife in this very difficult hour.

Remarks by Representative Sisk

Of California

Mr. Speaker, I wish to join my colleagues in expressing my profound sorrow at the passing of my esteemed friend, Hon. THOMAS J. O'BRIEN, dean of the Illinois congressional delegation. For 29 years he has served his constitutents, his State, and the Nation with dedicated devotion and performed his duties and responsibilities in Congress with outstanding effectiveness. His high ideals, leadership, and cooperation have won the respect and regard of all who have been privileged to serve with him in the House. We will all miss this truly great statesman, and I join in extending my sincere condolences to his family.

I will particularly miss the hand of friendship and assistance he has extended to me through my years in the House. I early learned that he was a man whose word could be absolutely relied upon; it was as firm as the Rock of Gibraltar. TOM O'BRIEN, through his leadership of the Illinois delegation, extended his cooperation and help to many of us, and throughout America, the many works, projects, and legislation of local importance which he materially assisted, will remain a monument to his memory.

Remarks by Representative McClory

Of Illinois

Mr. Speaker, I want to join in paying tribute to our late colleague, THOMAS J. O'BRIEN, an outstanding citizen of Illinois and of the Nation.

While I served with him here in the Congress for only a brief period, I came to appreciate and to respect the esteem in which he was held.

Mr. Speaker, the passing of a colleague is always an awesome experience. In the passing of THOMAS J. O'BRIEN, I experienced not only the loss of a colleague in this honorable body, the U.S. House of Representatives, but the passing of a gentleman who was both admired and loved.

When THOMAS J. O'BRIEN was elected sheriff of Cook County, I was aware of his service in this high office. When he was elected to the 78th Congress, I became even more aware of the prominence which this public servant had acquired, for he had been a Member of Congress and had chosen to serve the county of Cook as sheriff at a time when his experience was demanded at home. When he had completed his work there he returned to Congress and had served 11 consecutive terms with distinction since his return.

To his wife, Nettie, and to his brother, Dennis, to his many other relatives and friends, no words of mine—or yours—can soften the blow of his going. No recital of his contributions or his leadership will dull the sense of emptiness which overwhelms those who know today that his seat among us is vacated.

To them and to you, my colleagues, I say the name and memory of THOMAS J. O'BRIEN are inscribed and hallowed in this Chamber henceforth.

Remarks by Representative Michel

Of Illinois

Mr. Speaker, I want to join with my colleagues in paying tribute to our late departed friend, TOM O'BRIEN. I am so sorry that he is not in this Chamber with us any more.

Mr. Speaker, my acquaintanceship with TOM goes back to some 16 years ago when I first came to Washington fresh out of college, to serve as administrative assistant to my predecessor. We had occasion to talk with one another whenever the Illinois group met. I can recall his having mentioned how good it was for one to get started here in Washington at such an early age and that there was a bright future for those who, in his words, "played his cards right."

Mr. Speaker, TOM O'BRIEN was a great one for reminiscing and telling the younger generation what it was like in "the good old days."

His was a varied career in public service, and loyalty was a hallmark with him. He wasn't the most talkative individual, but what he did say was well reasoned and sincere. He was always very kind and considerate of the other fellow's viewpoint as long as he was a gentleman in expressing it. He loved people, and I don't remember how often he told me after being elected to Congress, "Young man, you just keep smiling; it's good for everyone around you."

Mr. Speaker, the sermon at his funeral a few days ago, which was so eloquently delivered, told in capsule form, far better than I can here today, how wonderfully composed this man was with so many fine human qualities. In essence, the sermon said that all of us could take a leaf from TOM O'BRIEN'S book of life and that we should strive to emulate those things for which he stood.

Mr. Speaker, I join with my colleagues in paying respect here today to a great man, one whom I shall surely miss seeing in this House and one who has made such a big imprint upon the political life and history of the city of Chicago and the State of Illinois and in the Congress of the United States.

Remarks by Representative Slack

Of West Virginia

Mr. Speaker, it is with a deep sense of loss that I join with my colleagues in paying tribute to the late Representative TOM O'BRIEN, of Illinois.

When I first came to the House of Representatives 6 years ago, he was already long established as a senior Member whose counsel was sought and whose advices were heeded. It was my good fortune to make his acquaintance early in my first term. During the intervening years, the benefit of his experience was frequently at my disposal, and from observation of his conduct I learned the full meaning of the phrase "able, courageous, and devoted public servant."

His passing from the roster of the House will be felt with special sorrow by all of us who had reason to know his uncommon generosity of spirit.

I take pride in having known him and in having merited his friendship, and I join in extending to his family and friends my deepest and most sincere sympathy.

Remarks by Representative Matsunaga

Of Hawaii

Mr. Speaker, the great tribute which has been paid to the memory of our late colleague, the Honorable THOMAS J. O'BRIEN, by so many of the Members of this House indicates the love and respect which he enjoyed among his fellow legislators. The fact that he was elected and reelected for term after term, even after he had become an octogenarian, is proof positive that he had served his people and his State and Nation well.

As a representative of the youngest State of the Union, I join those who served with him for nearly three decades in the Congress in paying tribute to the late THOMAS J. O'BRIEN. This Nation is richer for having had him as a citizen.

Remarks by Representative McMillan

Of South Carolina

Mr. Speaker, I wish to join my colleagues in expressing my deepest sorrow on the passing of our colleague from Illinois, Mr. O'Brien. When I came to Congress 26 years ago, I met Mr. O'Brien and within a few weeks I learned to love and respect him. In my opinion, he was one of the most effective and solid Members of this body during the 26 years I have had the privilege and opportunity to serve in the House. I do not know of any man who has contributed more to mankind and to our Nation in this legislative body than did Mr. O'Brien, of Chicago.

Mr. O'Brien talked to me on numerous occasions during the years we served together in this body concerning legislation he was personally interested in having the House take favorable action upon. I do not remember voting against any bill that my good friend Mr. O'Brien personally requested me to support when he was of the opinion that it would be for the best interest of his people and Illinois.

I know we have had some valuable Members of the House during my lifetime; however, I do not know of anyone that enjoyed more prestige and full confidence of his fellow Members of the House than our good friend, the late Tom O'Brien.

We shall all miss his excellent guidance and his presence in this body during the remainder of the time we are privileged to serve in the Congress of the United States.

I express my heartfelt sympathies to the members of his family.

Remarks by Representative Hansen

Of Washington

Mr. Speaker, I would like to join my distinguished colleagues in paying a deep and sincere tribute to the memory of our beloved colleague, Congressman O'BRIEN from Illinois. I will never forget his courtesy to me when I first came to Congress, nor his continuing courtesy ever since.

He was one of the kindest and most thoughtful persons I have ever known and to his widow and family my deepest sympathy in their loss which is shared by the entire House of Representatives.

Remarks by Representative Boland

Of Massachusetts

Mr. Speaker, there is a special sense of loss felt in our bereavement at the death of Representative THOMAS J. O'BRIEN, the oldest Member of the House of Representatives.

He was a capable leader of his delegation from Illinois, a valued counselor to his juniors in the House, a loyal member of his party, and a valued friend to all who knew him.

He had a long and successful career of public service. He first came to the House of Representatives in 1933; he served as a member of the Illinois House of Representatives, as a State bar examiner, as a deputy collector of internal revenue, and as the elected sheriff of Cook County.

His was not the oratorical style in public life, but the taciturnity that betokens ability, and silence that commands respect, and the human understanding that gains friendships.

On April 30 he would have been 86 years of age. In those many years he achieved a distinguished record of achievement in every office which he held. He was beloved not only by his colleagues in the House but by his constituents in his district. They were voting in the Illinois primary to return him to his 15th term in Congress at the very time that he passed beyond the reach of their approval and of all earthly rewards. Yet, knowing the veneration in which he held the House, and the store which he set by the approval of the constituents of both parties whom he represented so long and so well, this was the very time that he himself might have chosen to end a career of honest and able service to his country, to his party, and to his district.

Yet his memory will long be with us, and shall serve as an example of the levels of legislative achievement that lie within the range of men who are quiet, dedicated, and sincere. He was all of these things and embodied these virtues as well as others to the fullest.

He will be missed, but he will not be forgotten.

Remarks by Representative Kirwan

Of Ohio

Mr. Speaker, last week brought to a close one of the most distinguished careers in the annals of this body. The death of TOM O'BRIEN, of Chicago, shocked and saddened us all. It was a particularly heavy loss to those of us who knew TOM well and worked with him for so many years.

Mr. Speaker, anyone at all familiar with the mechanics of the House of Representatives realizes that it is not enough just to be a skilled orator or a parliamentary genius to succeed. Of equal, if not paramount importance, is the ability to earn and maintain the respect of one's colleagues. No one in this Chamber can deny that TOM O'BRIEN mastered this facet of congressional life. His word was his bond, and, when on those rare occasions he took to the well of the floor to speak, the House listened attentively.

His shrewd judgment was often sought by his colleagues, and his political advice was the envy of Members of this body on both sides of the aisle.

TOM O'BRIEN was the epitome of public service: dedicated to the people he represented, selfless, honest, and, above all, skilled in his chosen career.

The Ways and Means Committee on which he served so long will miss him dearly; the House, which he loved so deeply, will miss him even more.

Mrs. Kirwan and I extend our sincerest sympathies to his beloved widow.

Remarks by Representative Trimble

Of Arkansas

Mr. Speaker, a fine and trusted friend has left us, a gentleman in every sense of that word. His loyalty and devotion to his country was unquestioned. TOM O'BRIEN will be greatly missed here. Mrs. Trimble joins me in deep sympathy to Mrs. O'Brien and other members of the family.

Remarks by Representative Springer

Of Illinois

Mr. Speaker, the death of TOM O'BRIEN came as a terrific shock to me, as I am sure it did to every Member of this House. In his death I have lost a very dear and valued friend.

I can well remember when I first came to the Congress 14 years ago, TOM O'BRIEN was already a seven-term veteran—a broken 7-year term, I might add, as TOM had taken time out from his duties in the Congress to serve a 4-year term as sheriff of Cook County. When I first came here, even though I was on the other side of the aisle, TOM O'BRIEN constantly went out of his way to help the freshman from Champaign. His advice and counsel guided me over many a rough road. I believe I am a better Congressman because of his help and guidance.

TOM O'BRIEN and I disagreed on many issues, but there was never the slightest touch of bitterness in that disagreement. He was not that kind of man. The warmth of his person—his friendliness, his outgoing nature, his love of all mankind—would not permit him to carry a grudge. TOM O'BRIEN was sincere and steadfast in his beliefs. He was a loyal friend.

Deeply religious, his inner strength gave of itself to those with whom he came in contact. And TOM—dean of the Illinois delegation—gave unstintingly of himself in his service to his district, his State, and his country. His presence will be sorely missed.

I wish to join my colleagues in extending deepest sympathy to his widow in this hour of her bereavement.

Remarks by Representative Shipley

Of Illinois

Mr. Speaker, only so much can be said on the loss of a wonderful man like TOM O'BRIEN. You could take all the good words, all the phrases, and all the poems spoken and written when one of our loved ones passes away, compile them all together, and pick out the very best. Only this would be suitable for TOM.

A few years ago, when I came to the Congress as a freshman, I met TOM O'BRIEN for the first time. His sincerity and dedication to his job were truly superb and caused one of the greatest impressions made upon me by anyone since coming to Washington.

TOM was a Christian, a statesman, and a politician all rolled into one. I, like many others, will miss him very much for a long time.

Remarks by Representative Dorn

Of South Carolina

Mr. Speaker, TOM O'BRIEN was a great American and a dedicated Congressman. He was outstanding in the tradition of his great State and the Windy City that he loved.

This Congress is a better place because of TOM O'BRIEN. This Nation is a greater country because of his service to his city, State, and Nation.

TOM O'BRIEN loved public service. He liked to do things for his fellow citizens. He was genial and affable. TOM O'BRIEN was a gentleman.

Mrs. Dorn joins me in deepest sympathy to Mrs. O'Brien and to his constituents whom he loved.

Remarks by Representative Herlong

Of Florida

Mr. Speaker, I want to join with my colleagues in paying tribute to our late, beloved colleague, TOM O'BRIEN. I spent many pleasant hours in discussions with him, but principally listening to his recounting some of the experiences of a long and useful life. Truly, a part of Americana passed from the scene with the passing of TOM O'BRIEN.

TOM had many good and great qualities, not the least of which was one in which I believe he took greatest personal pride. Early in my work in Washington I learned that, when TOM O'BRIEN said something or gave you his word, you could forget about it because he was very proud of the fact that he had never broken his word once he had given it. This most admirable quality is only one of the many good qualities he had that endeared him to all of us who knew him well. He is truly going to be missed, and Mrs. Herlong and I want to take this opportunity to express our deepest sympathy to his faithful and loving wife in her, our, and the country's great loss.

Remarks by Representative Jennings

Of Virginia

Mr. Speaker, I wish to join in the tributes to my late colleague in the House and on the Committee on Ways and Means, Representative THOMAS J. O'BRIEN, of Illinois.

Representative O'BRIEN had a most distinguished career of public service in his home county, his district, and the Nation. He was respected and revered by his people. He was a leader of his State's delegation in the House. He was beloved by his colleagues.

I, of course, became acquainted with Representative O'BRIEN when I first came to the House in January 1955. I came to know him better after joining the Committee on Ways and Means in this Congress. My conviction that Representative O'BRIEN was a most effective legislator grew each year that I observed him at work.

Representative O'BRIEN inspired everyone with whom he came in contact. The record of his accomplishments will stand as a lasting monument to his memory.

It has been a privilege and honor for me to serve with him, and I share deeply in the sorrow that has befallen his family, his constituents, and his colleagues because of his passing.

Remarks by Representative Whitener

Of North Carolina

Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay my heartfelt respects to my departed friend and distinguished colleague from Illinois, the Honorable THOMAS J. O'BRIEN.

The people of Illinois have lost a great and dedicated Representative in the Congress. The Nation has lost a splendid American whose record of service in the House of Representatives will be a lasting monument to his name.

I first met our departed friend when I came to the House of Representatives in 1957. I was greatly impressed by his kind and gentle manner and by his desire to be of help in every way possible. THOMAS J. O'BRIEN was a Christian gentleman, whose sterling character and warm personality made him esteemed by all who were privileged to know him.

His many years in the Congress of the United States and his service as sheriff of Cook County, Ill., were performed with a steadfast devotion to duty and a sincere desire to discharge the faith and trust which his constituents had placed in him. He excelled as a Representative, and he made a great record of which his State and Nation may take just pride.

THOMAS J. O'BRIEN has responded to the last rollcall. Though he will not be among us here in the House in the days that lie ahead, his memory and the things for which he stood will long be an inspiration to all of us. I extend to the members of his family my sincere condolences in their great loss. May divine providence comfort all of them in their bereavement.

Remarks by Representative Burke

Of Massachusetts

Mr. Speaker, it is with considerable sorrow and personal grief that I call the attention of the House to the absence of our beloved colleague, THOMAS J. O'BRIEN, of the Illinois Sixth District, who last Tuesday, April 14, passed on, from this world to the next.

The loss of TOM O'BRIEN is one that we shall find particularly hard to abide, in the troublous times ahead. His leadership, which extended far and beyond his own State delegation, will be missed by all of those with whom he worked, and his friendship, good humor, and generosity will be missed by many hundreds who knew and loved him as a person.

TOM O'BRIEN was the headman of the Illinois Democratic delegation for many, many years. He was also a high-ranking member of the House Ways and Means Committee, in which capacity his influence reached to extraordinary lengths—partially as the result of political know-how, partially in consequence of personal appeal.

The business of the Ways and Means Committee is, of course, vital to the welfare of the country. To this group falls the task of whipping into shape the various and sundry tax bills, which so deeply affect the economic condition of the American people. As third-ranking Democrat on the Ways and Means Committee, TOM O'BRIEN was in a position to defend the pocketbook of the consumer and the small businessman against the wishes of wealthier interests. For whenever a tax bill came up for consideration in committee, he was on hand to insist upon justice for the little man, and to prevent the power of wealth from determining the disposal of revenue problems.

So much was TOM O'BRIEN revered and so great his influence in the matter of taxation, that when he suffered a heart attack 2 years ago, and subsequently was confined a good

deal of the time in the Bethesda Naval Hospital, his hospital room became a regular gathering place for a multitude of colleagues.

Slight of build and famous for his quiet demeanor, TOM O'BRIEN was nonetheless a veritable thunderbolt of a man in political circles. His convictions were firm, his principles impeccable, his knowledge of politics unsurpassed by any Member here today.

Born and reared in Chicago, TOM O'BRIEN became in time a lawyer, State legislator, and State bank examiner, before his first election to Congress in the year 1933.

During his service in the House, he had the opportunity to play a major part in numerous legislative battles against the foes of human betterment. That is to say, he was, at one time or another, confronted with a need to engage in conflict with the forces of economic depression, place and privilege, and military assault, all of which he sought, with voice and vote, to put down, as firmly, forcefully, and conclusively as possible.

TOM O'BRIEN not only talked democracy, he meant it, for himself and everyone else. His labors in behalf of the poor, the minorities, and the sick in spirit, were well known to the people in his district, and throughout the whole of his favorite town of Chicago.

A friend of the late Speaker Rayburn, TOM O'BRIEN was one of the leaders in the battle of 1961 to help both the Speaker and President Kennedy in their fight to enlarge the House Rules Committee, in the interest of justice.

Prior to that, he joined in promoting the New Deal measures of the early 1930's, the Fair Deal measures of the 1940's, and the New Frontier campaign, launched by President Kennedy and carried on, today, by President Johnson.

In economic matters, TOM O'BRIEN was always the friend of liberal reform. And when it came to national defense, he again could be found in the forefront of the fight, endorsing the anti-Nazi policies of the Roosevelt administration, supporting the American war cause with everything at his com-

mand, then turning to throw his weight, full force, against the Communist menace, at home and abroad.

At his funeral in Chicago, at St. Thomas Aquinas Roman Catholic Church, a great many House Members were on hand, for the sake of paying tribute to a man who did them honor. For he was involved in the great game of professional politics, as are they. And, by the nature of his conduct, he manifested a warm glow in which others of his profession well can bask today, with due thanks to the departed hero—a strong man, a liberal man, a man of great heart and great attainments: The late THOMAS J. O'BRIEN.

Remarks by Representative Keogh

Of New York

Mr. Speaker, it is with a sense of deep personal sadness that I rise to pay my respects to the memory of our distinguished colleague, THOMAS J. O'BRIEN, of Illinois. As a new Member in the 75th Congress, I felt privileged to count Congressman O'BRIEN not only as a close friend, but also as a valued mentor, and my sentiments toward him have increased tremendously with the intervening years.

Mr. O'BRIEN was, in a very real sense, the last of his illustrious kind. He was truly one of God's noblemen. As a dedicated American, he has served his country, his constituents, and his party with great distinction in this body for more than a quarter of a century. In my association with him for 12 years, as a member of the Committee on Ways and Means, it has been my privilege to observe and benefit from his serious application to the many problems that we have faced and to which he brought the wisdom derived from a keen mind and from his earlier experience with the governments of the State of Illinois and its important Cook County. His colleagues could not help but be inspired by his actions and character.

His actions were always of the highest degree of integrity—always direct and always successful to the point to which he was heading. His character was impeccable and, with it, came the qualities that have made him, and the few before him and the fewer afterward, the greater. He seldom spoke but, having done so, thereafter implemented his few words by the action that meant for decisive success for the things that, to him, were paramount—word, bond, and deed—and a better world for his having served it.

The Members of this body have lost a most valued, unique, and irreplaceable colleague and friend. To the members of

the Illinois delegation, particularly, I express my condolences upon the passing of the beloved dean of their delegation. His counsel and friendship will be sorely missed. To his bereaved widow and family I extend my most heartfelt sympathy. It is difficult to convey to them by either the spoken or written word the deep feeling of sorrow which I share with them and with Congressman O'BRIEN'S host of friends. The knowledge that it is so shared may to some degree lighten their burden, but not mine, for he was always and always will be an inspiration to one, such as I, who always needs a guiding light. His light will always shine, and I, I hope, will always be the better for having served and sat with a great and good man, THOMAS J. O'BRIEN. He will rest in the peace he deserves.

Remarks by Representative Derwinski

Of Illinois

Mr. Speaker, the passing of our beloved colleague, the Honorable THOMAS J. O'BRIEN, is a great loss to all of us in the Illinois delegation. He was a giant in the House, although his work, we all know, was carried on quietly behind the scenes rather than in a flamboyant, public fashion.

As spokesman for the Democratic members of the Illinois delegation, he worked closely with Members of our side of the aisle whenever important matters affecting Chicago and the State of Illinois required coordination. He was a gentle, kind gentleman, especially helpful to new Members, and always willing to pass on to others the wisdom he had acquired in his years of experience in the Congress.

TOM O'BRIEN was especially effective in legislative developments leading to the Cal-Sag project. He could always be counted upon to battle effectively for the causes he held to be sound.

Those of us who were fortunate to work with him realized his tremendous, sterling qualities, his stanchness, and his well-earned reputation for keeping his word. His passing is, in effect, a loss to the citizenry of the entire country since we can ill afford to lose such an outstanding leader in this House as was TOM O'BRIEN.

May I also mention, Mr. Speaker, that his wife was extremely helpful to Mrs. Derwinski when she arrived on the scene as a freshman wife, and Mrs. Derwinski joins me in expressing deepest sympathy to Mrs. O'Brien and the family.

Remarks by Representative Finnegan

Of Illinois

Mr. Speaker, we were all saddened to learn of the death of our venerable dean, the Honorable THOMAS J. O'BRIEN. The news came to me and to the other members of our delegation as we were in our districts on primary day in Illinois. Had he been able, TOM O'BRIEN would have been "in the precincts" also, as he had been all of his life. There was no other life but politics for TOM and his experience and insight gained over the many years was such that he had few rivals in his field.

My recollection of this man who was my friend and political mentor goes back to my youth on the West Side of Chicago. There the name of TOM O'BRIEN was already one to be reckoned with on the political scene. Some 30-odd years ago I cut my political teeth as a precinct captain in TOM O'BRIEN'S own precinct. Much of what I have learned about politics had its basis in my work at the precinct level under his guidance. When I came to the House in 1961, I valued very highly my longtime friendship and association with him; and I then again looked to him in learning my new job.

I treasure the memory of what I later learned was perhaps TOM'S longest speech. It was in my behalf before the Democratic caucus shortly after I entered the House. He described me as a "regular fellow" which in his laconic way was quite an accolade and meant more to me than any flowery speech or compliment that have come my way.

He was a very human person and, although he held his own counsel, his taciturn manner hid a wonderful sense of humor and a quick mind which were very much in evidence to those of us who were close to him.

The many things he accomplished for his city, State, and country will not be found in the speeches he made nor the

legislation he introduced. For he was not one to work in the spotlight but rather he labored quietly and effectively in the legislative councils of the House.

He was respected and his ability to get things done made him a great friend and favorite of the late, great Speaker of the House, Sam Rayburn, who possessed the highest regard and confidence in Tom. He was most effective in his key position as a ranking member of the Ways and Means Committee. He performed an invaluable service to Chicago and the State of Illinois by seeing that our Democratic Members received choice committee assignments which, as we all know, are so important in representing our constituency. He was most proud in all probability of O'Brien Locks on the Calumet River, dedicated in his honor for his efforts and assistance in promoting the Illinois waterway system.

But more than all this, Thomas J. O'Brien epitomized a time and an era that are rapidly disappearing if not already gone forever. He was an "old school" politician whose career ranged back over half a century. He first entered public service in 1907 upon his election to serve in the Illinois State Assembly and, over the years, in many similar capacities culminating with 14 terms as a Representative in Congress from the Sixth District of Illinois.

In retrospect, I somehow feel that he perhaps would have preferred for us to be eulogizing him in a simple and direct manner as a man whose loyalty to his country, party, and friends could never be questioned and as one who could be depended upon to get the job done no matter how difficult or unpleasant it may have been.

Remarks by Representative Rostenkowski

Of Illinois

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to our departed colleague, THOMAS J. O'BRIEN, a great man who was my very dear friend.

TOM O'BRIEN, dean of our delegation from Illinois, commanded the respect of each one of us, for his greatness was his character. He was a kind and understanding man, whose actions reflect a glory that is achieved by only a chosen few. It might be said that he lived among us as a symbol of what is expected of every human being in their existence on earth, and that the "Maker" of men kept him with us for 85 years so we would benefit from his guidance.

His dedication to public life began at an early age. He was only 20 when he served as a constable, but from that moment on his destiny was continuous service to his fellow men in representing their wishes for good government. His brilliant career saw him serving in the Illinois State Legislature for four terms, and as a State bank examiner, before his election to the U.S. House of Representatives, in 1933. He left this body in the late thirties to successfully serve 4 years as sheriff of Cook County, Ill. He then returned to Congress in 1943 and served faithfully till he received his call to join his Maker.

How can one measure his worth in terms of words? It is too difficult, for his deeds are too outstanding to be fittingly described. TOM was looked upon with high esteem by the people he served so well. The respect he gained is best illustrated by his nomination to serve two congressional districts as representative of the people on Chicago's West Side. He chose the Sixth District where he grew in stature with each passing year and gained the love of many generations of constituents who recognized his worth and endorsed his actions.

To say that he was an outstanding public servant seems so insignificant, and does not really measure up to this devotion to his tasks. He had that certain extra something that placed him in a class by himself. He was never too busy to listen, and he was available to all that sought his advice and help. His one great characteristic, which made him a nobleman, so to speak, was his humble manner in which he conducted himself. He sought no public fame, as such, and expected no rewards for his labors. He was satisfied in knowing that he could help his fellow man in time of need, and this became his purpose in life. I am sure that there are many of us here today whom Tom has helped, and it could well be that we would still not be here without his experienced guidance.

We have lost a great leader, but more important, we have lost a great friend, the kind of friend that does not happen along but once in any lifetime. We all know that one day we will be called from this earth, and that Tom had a long, rich life, but it is very difficult to accept the fact that he will no longer be with us to guide us with his wisdom in the many important decisions we still must face. For now he is only a memory, but I hope that his memory will give us the strength that we will need to complete our tasks in the same gallant manner that the sheriff displayed in his years of service as a Representative in Congress.

My sympathies go to his family in this, their darkest hours. They shall miss him, but I hope their sorrow will be eased in knowing that their beloved Tom has his own niche in this great country's history, and that without him we may not have enjoyed the greatness with which we have been blessed, for he was truly an outstanding statesman that cannot be replaced.

Remarks by Representative Kluczynski

Of Illinois

Mr. Speaker, the passing of THOMAS J. O'BRIEN marks the loss of a great Congressman. We of the Illinois delegation looked up to him as our dean, leader, and mentor. He was always ready to advise and assist on congressional matters, great or small. Always a man of his word, he enjoyed the respect and admiration of every Member of Congress in the House and Senate. His guidance was sought on many occasions by the leaders of our Nation.

Illinois will miss this honored man and his accomplishments in the representation not only of his district but of his State and country.

I personally suffer the loss of a close and dear friend. We often sat in counsel together, seeking his sage wisdom and deep interest in all of our problems.

THOMAS J. O'BRIEN was one of the few living persons in whose honor a national monument was dedicated—the Thomas J. O'Brien lock and dam on the Calumet River.

In our sadness Mrs. Kluczynski and I express profound condolences to his wonderful wife, Nettie, who spent many devoted and loving years bringing him the comfort and deep affection that made him a good and true public servant.

May his soul rest in the heavenly peace he so richly deserves.

Remarks by Representative Martin

Of Massachusetts

Mr. Speaker, I want to join with my colleagues in expressing my sorrow at the death of Congressman THOMAS J. O'BRIEN. He was a gentleman in every sense of the word.

Not only was he the leader of the Illinois delegation in the House, but he was always a very powerful figure in Illinois politics. He was a sheriff there for many years. I was pleased to enjoy his friendship, and mourn his loss.

His services will be missed, and I join in extending my condolences to his family and friends.

Remarks by Representative Morgan

Of Pennsylvania

Mr. Speaker, the passing of our dear friend and esteemed colleague, THOMAS J. O'BRIEN, brings to all of us a sense of deep personal loss and grief. If TOM had lived a few more short weeks he would have celebrated his 86th birthday. He lived a long and fruitful life of dedicated public service. As the eldest of our colleagues, he was truly our senior in more than years. TOM was a senior legislator, a senior statesman whose parliamentary skill and whose depth of wisdom made him one of the most valuable Members of this great body.

It is not enough to speak of TOM's skills and abilities without also paying tribute to those other warm and human qualities which had won our affectionate esteem, lasting friendship, and admiration. TOM O'BRIEN was always ready to extend a helping hand to new Members of the House. His great personal integrity won and kept our trust. His innate modesty kept him from taking the lead in debate, but added to his quiet effectiveness in committee and on the floor. He was a tower of strength to his party and to his State delegation, of which he served as dean for so many years with the greatest distinction.

TOM's passing leaves a void in our ranks that will be felt for a very long time. The impact of his unselfish service among us and the warm feeling of friendship we had for him will cause us to cherish the most pleasant memories of our service together in the Congress.

TOM's widow, in her grief on the passing of her dear husband, must find some consolation in the knowledge that her sense of loss and sadness is shared by all his colleagues and the host of his other close friends, both in and out of official life. To Mrs. Thomas J. O'Brien, I extend my deepest personal sympathy and condolences in our mutual great loss.

Remarks by Representative Karsten

Of Missouri

Mr. Speaker, the death of THOMAS J. O'BRIEN is a great loss to the Nation and the Congress but his passing is most keenly felt by those of us who served with him on the Committee on Ways and Means.

TOM dedicated his life to public service and during his illustrious career as an Illinois State legislator, sheriff of the city of Chicago, and as a Member of this House, many honors came to him. But I believe the one he cherished most was his membership on the Committee on Ways and Means.

It was my good fortune to know TOM before I became a Member of the House. I recall, after my election in 1946, I went to see him, seeking assistance in securing a committee assignment. We immediately became good friends and, through his efforts on the Committee on Committees, I was assigned to the committee of my choice. Some years later, it was my privilege to serve with him on the Committee on Ways and Means, and there I learned that TOM'S candidates for committee assignments were generally always successful. The reason for this was that he had the respect and confidence of all of the members of the committee.

I came to know TOM as a courageous man of deep conviction. He was ever mindful of his responsibilities to his beloved district in Chicago and the people of Illinois. Yet he was equally cognizant of his responsibilities to the Nation as a whole. He believed in the fundamental principles of our Government and had a deep faith in the Democratic Party, which he loved.

With his attentive ear and vigilant eye, he acquired knowledge which enabled him to use his words sparingly but with maximum effect. He had a remarkable facility for evaluation and summation of testimony, and a real talent for uniting facts with practical reasoning. He could always be de-

pended upon to apply his vast experience toward the solution of the difficult issues before our committee.

It was an honor to serve with and to know TOM O'BRIEN. He was a stanch friend, a dedicated public servant, and an outstanding citizen. Mrs. Karsten joins me in extending our deepest sympathy to Mrs. O'Brien and the other members of the family in their great sorrow.

Remarks by Representative Mills

Of Arkansas

Mr. Speaker, the announcement of the passing of our esteemed colleague, the Honorable THOMAS J. O'BRIEN, of Chicago, Ill., leaves us all with a feeling of profound sadness. He will be sorely missed in his district and in this body. TOM O'BRIEN has been a senior and stanch Member of the House of Representatives for many years. Those who have been privileged to know him over this period of time have admired and respected his strength of character, his fortitude, his dependability, and his devoted service to the people he represented and to the Nation.

TOM O'BRIEN first served on the Committee on Ways and Means beginning March 26, 1944. He has served on the committee most of the balance of the years since that date. I have worked with him both as a member of the committee and as chairman of the committee for many years. He was conscientious and diligent in attendance at committee meetings; he was sparing in his use of time of the committee, and he was utterly and completely reliable and dependable when he stated his position on an issue. I will miss him on the Committee on Ways and Means, and I am deeply moved by his passing. I will miss his able and devoted and loyal service.

Those of us who have been privileged to serve with him are aware of the qualities of character and integrity which he possessed, and little we can say here today will add or detract in any way from the enviable record which he has built over the years for his State and Nation. That record will stand as a monument to his devotion to his people and to his friends and to his loved ones.

My deepest sympathy to Mrs. O'Brien and to the surviving members of his family.

Remarks by Representative Zablocki

Of Wisconsin

Mr. Speaker, I wish to join my colleagues in paying tribute to the Honorable THOMAS J. O'BRIEN, our esteemed colleague so recently departed.

He was indeed a most distinguished member of this body, an outstanding American, and a good friend.

TOM O'BRIEN's life was in the pattern of other great "men of the House"; that is, those individuals whose dedication to this legislative body has been so complete and intense that their service here becomes a vocation in the highest sense of the word. TOM O'BRIEN was such an individual.

He gave unstintingly of himself toward the enhancement of the goals and objectives of the House. His efforts were ever directed toward strengthening this representative democratic organ.

The press has reported that Mr. O'BRIEN was a powerful Member of this body. And so he was. But it was not power based on coercion or threats, for he was a quiet man and mild in manner. His power was based on respect—the respect of his colleagues for his ability, his honesty, and his wisdom.

But more than just a distinguished Congressman, TOM O'BRIEN was an outstanding American. Throughout his career, he worked for the progressive legislation that has made both his party and his country great.

Elected to Congress during the great depression, he quickly gained notice as an able proponent of the Roosevelt administration programs which wrought such a vast sociological change in our Nation and brought our greatness to fruition.

In the years that followed, he served well the forward-looking programs of President Truman, President Kennedy, and, most recently, President Johnson. Always a battler for the rights of the common man, TOM O'BRIEN could take

pride in his last years that he had played an important part in opening up economic, educational, and social opportunities for millions of his fellow Americans.

But it is as a friend that I best remember Tom O'Brien. His friendship, his counsel, his assistance in my early days in Congress are an indelible memory. My debt to him, no amount of gratitude can pay.

Yet it was not simply during my first years in Congress that he extended his generous help, but, indeed, until his final illness.

It was my privilege to have been able to serve as an honorary pallbearer at Mr. O'Brien's funeral, along with a number of other colleagues. We who witnessed his requiem services and his burial know how deep and genuine was the regard of the people, of all stations, for this good, generous, and quiet man.

We are richer because of his many years among us, and much the poorer for his passing.

Remarks by Representative Pucinski

Of Illinois

Mr. Speaker, many years ago Teddy Roosevelt was heard to say, "The first requisite of a good citizen in this Republic is that he shall be able to pull his own weight."

America has had a brimming abundance of good citizens—men and women who have devoted years of their lives to public service. THOMAS J. O'BRIEN, of Illinois, was such a citizen. He came to Congress in an era when this country needed every available human resource to resurrect its faith in the future.

He came to Washington prepared to give his talents and energies to restoring to America its self-confidence and to lead it to unprecedented prominence among the nations of the world.

His was not a flamboyant personality. He knew that a higher purpose was served in doing a job well when it needed doing, than by shirking his responsibilities and failing to make difficult decisions when it took an extra measure of courage to make them.

During this time he represented the people of Illinois' Sixth District faithfully, earnestly, and with enormous distinction. As the years passed, his constituents could see reflected in his actions the leadership which was so natural a trait with him. His contemporaries in government on both sides of Capitol Hill recognized this faculty for quiet mastery of trying situations and came to reply upon it. TOM O'BRIEN was always there in an emergency.

He was here in this Chamber throughout the most trying crises of the past three decades, and always it was his ability to keep perspective on the future which influenced his colleagues and constituents.

He was a great friend to new Members of Congress and his word was trusted and relied on, regardless of politics. He worked throughout his life to improve conditions which needed changing and he was more than an able legislator—he was in every sense a leader.

His convictions were strong, his good causes were legion, and he stood four-square for the United States.

In the dark days of World War II, General MacArthur once said, "There is no security on this earth—only opportunity." Tom O'Brien lived his life in an effort to expand that opportunity for people everywhere—in every community and State in America. He was quietly, but inevitably, in the forefront during passage of all the great humanitarian legislation of the past three decades.

Chicago will miss him for a good long while to come. And I believe the country, also, will mourn this quiet man who did so much for others in the span of a single lifetime. I am proud to have known him. My life is richer for having served with him in the House of Representatives. I like to think that the legacy of his dedication to the art of statesmanship is a legacy from which all of us can benefit, for the greatest of all arts is the art of giving ourselves in the service of others.

Tom O'Brien followed the code of duty, honor, country. We would not be true to his memory and the memory of the great Americans who have preceded him into history if we failed to do less.

Mrs. Pucinski joins me in extending our deepest condolences to Nettie O'Brien and to his family.

Remarks by Representative Philbin

Of Massachusetts

Mr. Speaker, I was deeply grieved and greatly saddened to learn of the passing of my dear and valued friend and most esteemed colleague for many years, the Honorable THOMAS J. O'BRIEN, of the great State of Illinois.

He was indeed a dear friend of mine, and I cherished the warmth of his friendship. He was one of the most exceptional, valuable Members of this House as well as an exceptionally popular and beloved colleague, conspicuous for his loyalty to his convictions and his friends.

TOM O'BRIEN commanded the deep respect of every Member of the House for his ability, for his forthrightness, and his patriotism. His public contributions were many and marked. He was truly unique in his lovable, personal qualities, outstanding in ability and the wide sweep of his interests and his effective service to his district, State, and Nation.

There was an indefinable aspect to TOM O'BRIEN's greatness. It had to be apprehended rather than described, because it was embodied in the sum total of personal traits, habits, loyalties, and special talents which constituted the ethos, modus operandi, and thought and action patterns of this great leader.

TOM O'BRIEN carried in his generous, unselfish nature no residue of juvenile frustration, no Freudian complexes, no compulsive emotions, no mean irrelevant prejudices rattling around in the closets of his subconscious. He could well be classified, in the philosophical sense, as an Aristotelian realist, not seeking rockets or spaceships, even as he realized their intrinsic worth to our defense, but with his feet planted squarely on the ground, watching the stars for portents of greater light, judging the world around him with an uncanny eagerness and the studied accuracy of a great man seeking to do good.

Devoted service such as his, steeped in high faith, warm courage, and patriotic zeal, he exemplified in his public and private life the high code by which he lived; God and country, party, family, and friends, with the emphasis on the first, and with the sacred concept of loyalty, permeating every motive, every thought, every objective.

He was a most valuable member of the great Ways and Means Committee and the Joint Committee on Internal Revenue Taxation and enjoyed the confidence of his colleagues and the leadership of the House. He performed many outstanding and special services and supported and advanced many meaningful pieces of legislation.

TOM O'BRIEN was very dear to me during the years I have been in the Congress. I esteemed and cherished him profoundly. He was beloved, respected, admired wherever he was known. The warmth of his heart, the radiance of his personality, the compassion and generosity of his impulse have been everlastingly impressed upon the annals of this great body and in the hearts of all those of us who were privileged to know and to love this good and noble man.

In his passing, the Nation has lost a great leader and I have lost a noble friend. With very heavy heart, I extend to his beloved and grieving family—his gracious helpmate and wife, Nettie, and all his dear ones, my most heartfelt sympathy for the truly irreparable loss which has come to them. I join his dear ones and a host of others in mourning his passing, and sad of heart, pay tribute to his noble aspirations and illustrious achievements.

The contributions of TOM O'BRIEN are not measurable by finite standards. They will live and fructify here in the historic precincts of this House, inspiring and guiding the House toward noble goals, exalted ends, and warm human fellowships, as an undying inspiration for others to carry on the bitter fight that must be fought, if in our generation we are to preserve and sustain the glories, benefits, and blessings of free representative government. Such are the treasured bequests of that kind and generous gentleman from Illinois, the Honorable THOMAS J. O'BRIEN.

May the good Lord grant him eternal rest and peace in his heavenly home.

Remarks by Representative Ullman

Of Oregon

Mr. Speaker, I will always remember TOM O'BRIEN as a kind, gentle man with a great heart and a keen sense of loyalty. It was my privilege to sit with him on the Ways and Means Committee and to witness at first hand his personal devotion to the work of the committee and the Congress.

TOM O'BRIEN loved his job. Politics was his life—but to him, politics meant public service and devotion to the broad social objectives of his party. He attended committee meetings with great loyalty. He never failed to stand up for his friends.

TOM O'BRIEN had great political power, but he did not use it ruthlessly, rather with restraint and with deep feeling for his fellow man.

TOM O'BRIEN was my friend. His passing has left an empty place in the hearts of all of us here. To his devoted wife and family I offer my most sincere condolences.

Remarks by Representative Kelly

Of New York

Mr. Speaker, with deep sorrow and regret, I join my colleagues in the House of Representatives in paying tribute to the memory of our late colleague, THOMAS J. O'BRIEN. Throughout a long and distinguished career of public service, THOMAS O'BRIEN was notable for his dedication and perseverence. He served his State and Nation well.

I take this opportunity to extend my sincere sympathy to his family and loved ones. May God's blessings sustain them in their loss.

Remarks by Representative Collier

Of Illinois

Mr. Speaker, of the many personalities who appear and disappear with regularity on the American political scene, few leave a mark which time does not obliterate.

Surviving this test of time which is so discriminating on the American political scene requires certain human ingredients which the late THOMAS J. O'BRIEN possessed in depth. He had a way of achieving his goal and purpose without oratorical persuasion, fanfare, or publicity. He was a quiet, soft-spoken man who decided what had to be done and then did it.

My acquaintance with TOM O'BRIEN goes back 25 years—many years before I became a Member of the House. This acquaintance was renewed when I became a colleague of his in the Illinois congressional delegation in 1956. Later I became a colleague of his on the House Ways and Means Committee, but illness befell him shortly after this time.

While we frequently assumed different positions on legislative issues and differed in our political philosophies, I became very fond of TOM O'BRIEN and treasured a mutual respect and friendship which grew over the past 8 years.

He was kind and helpful wherever it was possible and, above all else, he was a man of his word.

I shall miss TOM O'BRIEN as will his constituents and colleagues. To his good and devoted widow and members of his family, I offer my heartfelt sympathy.

Remarks by Representative Daddario

Of Connecticut

Mr. Speaker, I would like to join our colleagues of the Illinois delegation and the other Members of the House in paying tribute to the late TOM O'BRIEN. Through his experience in public life, his dedication to the needs and the principles of the people of his home State and of the Nation, he gave of himself in many ways to build a fine record of constructive contributions to the work of the Congress.

It is possible in the House to observe at close hand the men whose integrity and leadership have earned themselves a reservoir of power which is critical in the issues which divide our parties. Throughout my years in Congress I learned to respect the ability and experience of the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. O'BRIEN]. His public service covered almost 60 years. He worked hard for the people he represented and for the State and city he loved so well. Mrs. Daddario and I extend our deepest sympathy to his bereaved family.

Remarks by Representative Monagan

Of Connecticut

Mr. Speaker, I mourn the passing of our friend and colleague, the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. O'BRIEN]. TOM O'BRIEN was one of the elder statesmen of the House of Representatives. Although he was not widely known outside the Capitol, he was recognized by those who understood the workings of the House of Representatives to be one of the most influential men in this distinguished body.

His way was not the way of the flashy or of the vociferous. He was undemonstrative, but he was effective. He was quiet, but he was influential. His outstanding qualities were frankness and reliability. One always knew where one stood with TOM O'BRIEN because he minced no words and was candid to a marked degree. Above all, his word was his bond, and when he pledged that word, nothing could turn him from his undertaking.

TOM'S success and prestige came the hard way. All his accomplishments were due to his own efforts and people of his district and of the city of Chicago showed their appreciation by consistently supporting him in overwhelming fashion at the polls.

TOM'S memory will always remain with us here in the House of Representatives and that memory will be a pleasant one.

Remarks by Representative Reuss

Of Wisconsin

Mr. Speaker, the Nation, Congress, and Illinois have suffered a very great loss with the death of our distinguished colleague, THOMAS J. O'BRIEN.

As dean of his State's delegation, he was a good neighbor and a good friend to me and to the State of Wisconsin. He will be sadly missed.

His long life was dedicated to public service. He served on every level of American government with distinction: on the local level as sheriff of Cook County, on the State level as a representative in four general assemblies, and on the Federal level in two periods in this House extending over more than 27 years.

Throughout his career, he displayed a dedication to progressive government. Though TOM O'BRIEN was not noted for his oratory, his wisdom and experience were always a pervasive influence for good in this body and in the Ways and Means Committee.

As a stanch member of his party, he was often a major force in the accomplishment of its programs and policies. His was a proud record of building good government.

The voters of the Sixth District of Illinois knew his mettle well. It was ironic, yet a real tribute, that he was being renominated once again by the people of his constituency when he died Tuesday at Bethesda Naval Hospital.

His achievements in Congress were enhanced by the able assistance he received over the years from his brother-in-law and aid, John Kaufer.

Today, I want to extend my heartfelt sympathy to Mrs. O'Brien and to Mr. Kaufer.

Remarks by Representative Boggs

Of Louisiana

The passing of our beloved friend, TOM O'BRIEN, leaves an aching void in many a heart all over this land. Friends like TOM O'BRIEN are all too rare in this life; they stand out like sierras along our skyline.

Throughout a long rich life, he walked always with rectitude, honor, and humility. A man of determination and strong will, he had the courage also to be a gentle man, a man with a heart full of love for his fellow men, individually and en masse.

Here is a man to whom service was a joy, a man who reveled in trying to make his generation worth while and his country better. For all the long years that I was privileged to claim him as a great friend, I marveled at his sound commonsense, his rocklike convictions, and his unshakable loyalty to his friends. For many years I sat beside him on the Committee on Ways and Means, and, as I watched him year after year trying to do justice to all who came to plead before that committee, I learned much from his patience, his tolerance, his sense of fair play.

Oh, how all of us will miss this beloved man—this man whose like we will not soon see again—this devoted husband of a great, lovely lady, Mrs. O'Brien—this fearless servant of his people—this dedicated patriot. TOM O'BRIEN enriched the lives of us all. We all are so much better for his having lived.

To his widow, on behalf of Lindy and myself, I extend our deepest sympathy and our prayers.

Remarks by Representative Horan

Of Washington

Mr. Speaker, it is my sad privilege to join my colleagues in paying my tribute and respects to the memory of TOM O'BRIEN.

TOM returned to the House of Representatives and was sworn in when I was, in 1943. We became good friends, serving together on the Committee on Appropriations for two terms.

He was a constant friend. It always seemed to me that his contacts with all his colleagues did not hurry to short and poor conclusions—but were the more lasting because they came from the tough fiber of a very human heart. TOM O'BRIEN was a gentle spirit such as we cherish while they live and derive warmth from remembering. All of us will miss him.

To his wonderful wife and constant companion, Nettie, and to John Kaufer, his brother-in-law, and to the rest of his family, Mrs. Horan and I extend our sincere and deepest sympathies.

Remarks by Representative Rumsfeld

Of Illinois

Mr. Speaker, I would like to join my colleagues in paying tribute to the memory of an outstanding Member of this body, THOMAS J. O'BRIEN. Throughout his many years of public service, Congressman O'BRIEN served Illinois and our Nation with faithfulness and devotion. Elected a State representative to the 45th general assembly, he continued as State representative for 8 years. In 1932 he was elected to the 73d Congress and was reelected to two additional terms before returning to Illinois to become sheriff of Cook County. After completing a 4-year term as sheriff, the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. O'BRIEN] again ran for Congress and was elected to the 78th Congress, serving continuously since that time. In the present Congress he was third-ranking majority member of the powerful House Ways and Means Committee. His long service to his district, State, and Nation will long be remembered by Democrats and Republicans alike. I extend to Mrs. O'Brien and to the other members of his family my sincere sympathy. An editorial in Chicago's American of April 7 states well the feelings of the residents of Illinois regarding the loss of Congressman THOMAS J. O'BRIEN.

REPRESENTATIVE THOMAS J. O'BRIEN

Representative THOMAS J. O'BRIEN's death Tuesday deprived Illinois and Chicago of a dedicated, influential champion in Congress. O'BRIEN, at 85, was dean of the Illinois congressional delegation and the oldest Member of the House; he was first elected to Congress in 1932 and had been reelected ever since, except for 4 years as sheriff of Cook County. He was planning to run again—his name was on Tuesday's Democratic primary ballot—and undoubtedly would have been returned to his seat. Representative O'BRIEN was one whose worth did not go unappreciated.

THOMAS JOSEPH O'BRIEN

O'Brien led and won a battle vital to Chicago—the fight to widen the Cal-Sag Channel, allowing a freer flow of shipping from Lake Michigan through the channel and the Illinois Waterway to the Mississippi River and down to New Orleans. We mourn the loss of a good man who fought well for all of us.

Remarks by Representative Rodino

Of New Jersey

Mr. Speaker, it is always with a heavy heart that we rise to speak of a colleague who will no longer join us in this Chamber. It is with a sense of deep loss that we memorialize the passing of one of the true leaders of our body. So it is today, for the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. O'BRIEN] was indeed one of those leaders.

When I first came to the House 16 years ago, TOM O'BRIEN was already a respected and admired Member of the House. Already he had served many terms in the House, as well as in the general assembly of his State.

We all know well the close bond that existed between our late beloved Speaker, Mr. Sam, and TOM O'BRIEN. There was that same dedicated, intensely dedicated, spirit of service to their Nation and to their colleagues, that same indomitable courage that allowed them always to adhere to their principles and beliefs.

TOM O'BRIEN was a quiet man. But his quiet manner could not hide his noble character, his breadth of vision, his courage and his faithful, generously given service to his constitutents. He was always kind and gracious, and wise, in his counsel when we sought him out.

He will no more be among us, this gentleman from Illinois. But his spirit will never leave us. We who have been privileged to serve with him will always be the richer. So long as we continue to enjoy such colleagues as he, the continued greatness of this body is assured.

Mrs. Rodino joins me in extending our sincerest sympathy to his devoted wife, Nettie, and to his family. May he always go with God and his soul rest in peace.

Remarks by Representative Rooney

Of New York

Mr. Speaker, it is with a profound sadness and a heavy heart that I join my colleagues in paying tribute to our departed colleague, the Honorable THOMAS J. O'BRIEN, of Illinois. His passing will be a great loss, not only to his beloved State but to the entire Nation.

He was a wonderful friend, and I shall always remember the many happy occasions I was privileged to be in his company. TOM and I served together on the Subcommittee on Appropriations of which I am presently chairman, and in the year 1947 the distinguished gentleman from Virginia [Mr. Gary], TOM O'BRIEN, and his lovely wife, Nettie, and I visited a number of the countries in Western Europe in connection with our duties as members of the House Appropriations Committee. It was a very pleasant journey and experience that I well enjoyed, and a deeper friendship and a closer relationship resulted with TOM and Nettie O'Brien.

TOM O'BRIEN was a dedicated legislator who was greatly admired for his honesty, his wisdom, and his exceptional ability. He was respected by all the Members of this House, regardless of which side of the aisle they were on.

To his devoted and lovely wife, Nettie, I extend my deepest sympathy and prayers.

Remarks by Representative Evins

Of Tennessee

Mr. Speaker, permit me to join with my colleagues from Illinois and others in paying a brief but sincere tribute to the memory of our distinguished colleague, the gentleman from Illinois, THOMAS J. O'BRIEN. I am saddened indeed to hear of his passing.

TOM O'BRIEN has had a long and distinguished career of service as a Member of this body. He was an important, highly respect, esteemed, and valued member of the Committee on Ways and Means. He was first elected to the 73d Congress and served three consecutive terms here before returning to Chicago, where he was elected in 1938 to the office of high sheriff of Cook County. In 1942, he was reelected to Congress—the 78th Congress—and he has been reelected to each succeeding Congress in the intervening period.

Congressman O'BRIEN was a distinguished legislator, a great American, and indeed a grand gentleman. He served his county, district, State, and Nation with devotion and fidelity. He believed in the principles of the Democratic Party and was a true Democrat in every sense of the term.

In the passing of Congressman O'BRIEN the House has lost one of its most distinguished Members and I have lost a good friend. I extend to Mrs. O'Brien and to the other members of his family an expression of my most sincere sympathy in their loss and bereavement.

Remarks by Representative Sikes

Of Florida

Mr. Speaker, TOM O'BRIEN was a friendly, loyal, wonderful man. He was a natural leader and yet one of the kindest of men. There was something warm and personal about him which made him easy to know and which quickly instilled confidence.

I do not believe anyone in the Congress possessed more close and devoted friends or could call on more vigorous support from those friends when the occasion demanded it.

Through a long lifetime of participation in public life he was wise in the ways of government, and his counsel was invaluable, yet because of his quiet, self-effacing attitude it was hard to realize that he had given 28 years of valuable service here and that only 19 Members of the present membership of the Congress had served longer than he.

As dean of the House delegation of the great State of Illinois, he was their accepted leader, and his State has lost an able representative, an effective leader, and a strong patriot.

Many have served here. Few have enjoyed the confidence and the friendship which were given to TOM O'BRIEN. His record is like a pleasant interlude to be remembered happily and warmly throughout the years to come.

Remarks by Representative Chelf

Of Kentucky

Mr. Speaker, it is my desire to join my colleagues in expressing profound regret at the passing of our esteemed colleague and my dear friend, the Honorable THOMAS O'BRIEN.

His long career here in the House, culminating in serving as dean of the Illinois delegation, was marked by devotion to duty, courage, loyalty, and conscientiousness. He was a leader of men, one who commanded their confidence and respect.

His presence and his leadership, along with his warm friendliness, will be greatly missed in the House.

I pray that God will bless and comfort his wife and family forever and a day.

Remarks by Representative Schneebeli

Of Pennsylvania

Mr. Speaker, TOM O'BRIEN was a man of outstanding integrity and loyalty. He was a dependable colleague whose word could be relied upon and who always delivered what he promised. It was these fine qualities of him that enabled him to serve with such distinction in his native county, State, and in the Congress. His public service covered a span of many years, which included 4 terms in the State Assembly of Illinois and a term as sheriff of Cook County in addition to the 14 terms for which he was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. He was renominated in the Illinois primary for yet another term on the day that he passed away.

TOM O'BRIEN has been a longtime political leader of his party both in Chicago and in the House of Representatives. He was considered the leader of the Illinois Democratic delegation for many years and was respected by Members on both sides of the aisle.

TOM was particularly helpful to me as a newcomer to both Congress and the Ways and Means Committee and as one who was seeking advice. My short friendship with him on the committee was most gratifying, and his suggestions and assistance were both constructive and helpful in my indoctrination.

TOM's many friends will miss his leadership and good judgment, and Illinois has lost a fine native son. I, too, have lost a kind and helpful friend, whose cheery smile I shall miss, and to whose family I extend my deepest sympathy in their sorrow.

Remarks by Representative Roosevelt

Of California

Mr. Speaker, I would like to add my voice to those of my colleagues in paying tribute to the late THOMAS J. O'BRIEN, a good and dutiful public servant. In his continuous and dedicated service to his city, State, and Nation he has set a high example for all of us of a life well lived. We mourn his passing, and we shall miss him, and we hope that we shall be able to live up to his high principles of devotion and loyalty to his fellow man. I extend my heartfelt sympathies to his family and loved ones.

Remarks by Representative Patman

Of Texas

Mr. Speaker, Representative THOMAS J. O'BRIEN, of Chicago, was typical in the very best sense of the grand politicos of the old school, and his death, although not unexpected, seems to me something very much like the passing of an era. For me Representative O'BRIEN, gone from us in his 85th year, embodied the finest qualities of leadership in the politics of the recent decades and the Middle West. I know it is the custom to refer to men of decision and forthrightness in politics as "bosses," once they achieve authority and great influence. But TOM O'BRIEN, as I observed him, could never be called the boss in the dictatorial, the peremptory, the arbitrary, the domineering sense. Rather, he was known to most of us in this House as an extremely astute master of his profession who ruled by right of leadership and by the virtue of his service to his district, his State, and his country. TOM O'BRIEN was not listened to merely because of the weight of his authority and the force of his personal will, but because also of his lucid and direct and unwavering judgments. Of course, he knew how to make decisions, but he knew also how to respect the opinions and the decisions of others. As a great craftsman in the field of parliamentary maneuver he knew how wisely to accept compromise when compromise suggested the best solution for the good of the common welfare. Thus, he was the type of legislative leader who got things done and arrived at his goals with the least possible friction and without riding roughshod over those who disagreed with him. It is symptomatic of the man that when he spoke his voice was soft and persuasive, and his manner gentle and cooperative. The respect he enjoyed from the Illinois congressional delegation was so great that he was its undisputed leader here in the Congress, and of course its dean, but it was a respect shared by many other Members of

the House from all over the country. What has been said there since the announcement of his death Wednesday, April 14, after a long illness in the Bethesda Naval Hospital, is ample testimony of the high regard in which he was held by us all.

When I say that he was the embodiment of the most admired qualities in the makeup of the American politician, I mean that he provided the service to his constituents and the loyalty to them, to his party, to his country, that earned him undying loyalty and devotion in return. The reason that his following in Illinois never abandoned him was that he never abandoned them, and as he fought valiantly for them, so they fought valiantly for him. The best proof is, of course, that death was knocking at his door at the very moment that his dedicated political following, in the Chicago area, were casting ballots to make sure he would be a candidate and then a Member again in this House for his 15th term. It is symptomatic, too, that in this House, as our comments during these days so eloquently prove, he enjoyed a deep, an abiding, a powerful range of friendships. Only a strict personal and political integrity, and a long record of keeping one's promises and acting on principle, can bring that about.

The Illinois delegation enjoys a high quality of leadership among its members, but even among them TOM O'BRIEN was unique. It is my most devout prayer that the current and the forthcoming generations of Americans will send to this Chamber to represent them, men as dedicated and as competent in the handling of the affairs of their time as TOM O'BRIEN was in the handling of the affairs of his. Politics in our country will never know a higher level of character than that provided by TOM O'BRIEN.

Proceedings
in the
United States Senate

Proceedings in the Senate

TUESDAY, *April 14, 1964.*

A message from the House of Representatives, by Mr. Hackney, one of its reading clerks, communicated to the Senate the intelligence of the death of Hon. THOMAS J. O'BRIEN, late a Representative from the State of Illinois, and transmitted the resolutions of the House thereon.

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate a resolution of the House of Representatives (H. Res. 634), which was read, as follows:

Resolved, That the House has heard with profound sorrow of the death of the Honorable THOMAS J. O'BRIEN, a Representative from the State of Illinois.

Resolved, That a committee of fifty Members of the House, with such Members of the Senate as may be joined, be appointed to attend the funeral.

Resolved, That the Sergeant at Arms of the House be authorized and directed to take such steps as may be necessary for carrying out the provisions of these resolutions and that the necessary expenses in connection therewith be paid out of the contingent fund of the House.

Resolved, That the Clerk communicate these resolutions to the Senate and transmit a copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

Resolved, That as a further mark of respect the House do now adjourn.

Mr. DOUGLAS. On behalf of my colleague [Mr. Dirksen] and myself I submit the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Senate has heard with profound sorrow the announcement of the death of Honorable THOMAS J. O'BRIEN, late a Representative from the State of Illinois.

Resolved, That a committee of two Senators be appointed by the Presiding Office to join the committee appointed on the part of the House of Representatives to attend the funeral of the deceased Representative.

Resolved, That the Secretary communicate these resolutions to the House of Representatives and transmit an enrolled copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the resolution.

The resolution (S. Res. 309) was unanimously agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to Senate Resolution 309, the Chair announces, as the committee on the part of the Senate, Mr. Douglas and Mr. Dirksen to join the committee appointed on the part of the House of Representatives to attend the funeral of the Honorable THOMAS J. O'BRIEN, late a Representative from the State of Illinois.

Mr. PELL. Mr. President, as a further mark of respect to the memory of the deceased Representative THOMAS J. O'BRIEN, I move that the Senate do now take a recess, under the previous order, until 10 o'clock a.m. tomorrow.

The motion was unanimously agreed to; and (at 10 o'clock and 44 minutes p.m.) the Senate took a recess, under the previous order, until tomorrow, Wednesday, April 15, 1964, at 10 o'clock a.m.

Remarks by Senator Douglas

Of Illinois

Mr. President, it is with great regret that I announce the death of Congressman THOMAS J. O'BRIEN, the dean of the Illinois delegation and one of the most experienced and esteemed Members of Congress.

Congressman O'BRIEN had a distinguished career in the political life of Chicago and served in many capacities in local government; among others, as sheriff of Cook County. He came to the House of Representatives in 1933 and for many years was a member of the House Ways and Means Committee where he became one of the most influential members of that body. Mr. O'BRIEN was extremely kindly and generous in his personal relations and had a deep loyalty and devotion to our country. He was a firm believer in the principles of our party and was very active in furthering them. He was sparing in speech but powerful in action. I mourn him as a personal friend, as do all who knew him.

Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to Mrs. O'Brien, his wife for more than 40 years, with whom he lived a life of great fidelity and mutual devotion.

Remarks by Senator Dirksen

Of Illinois

Mr. President, there are and there have been quiet people in the public service who have made an indelible imprint on our national life. They make few if any speeches. They make no headlines. They rate no brass bands. And yet they stoutly man the oars which take the national ship of state through quiet or turbulent waters.

More often than not they are humble and self-effacing, but all men know always where they stand.

They make no pretense to influence, and yet they wield it. They make no loud boasts of their achievements, and yet they are steady producers. They do not parade their power, and yet, in their humble and quiet demeanor, anyone can perceive that it is there.

They are tolerant of their colleagues, yet never indulge in condescension. They are intensely loyal to their friends and show it by quiet deeds and not by loud and self-serving words.

Devotion to country, to family, and to friends is the very hallmark of their daily conduct.

Such a person, in my judgment, was Congressman THOMAS O'BRIEN of Illinois, dean of the Illinois delegation in the House of Representatives, who, at age 85, this week surrendered to the arms of eternal sleep.

He was a kindly, patient person, a shrewd judge of human nature with an uncanny capacity to distinguish between that which was genuine and that which was spurious in human values.

I salute the memory of THOMAS O'BRIEN, who, while intensely devoted to his party, always found time to give aid and counsel to a friend regardless of his political affiliation.

During our association in the House of Representatives, and in all the years that I served in the Senate, he was truly a friend, and I mourn his departure from these earthly precincts in which we often visited. In all the days of his life, he enshrined himself in the hearts of many.

APR 26 '65

Date Due

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Memorial services held in the main

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